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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02  
PA-01 /031 R

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-----033000 242140Z /13  
O P 242118Z FEB 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE  
INFO USICA PRIORITY

**C O N F I D E N T I A L** STATE 046354

E.O. 12065 GDS, 2/24/85 (LUCIUS, H.)

TAGS: SOPN, AF, UR

**SUBJECT: (C) GUIDANCE ON PRESS QUERIES**

**REF: KABUL 1260**

1. (C) WE BELIEVE IT BEST FOR YOU TO AVOID GETTING INTO TOO DETAILED OF A DISCUSSION OF THE DIFFERING VERSIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE TIME OF AMBASSADOR DUBS' DEATH WHEN YOU ARE TALKING WITH FOREIGN PRESS. IF ASKED, YOU MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE HERE.

2. (LOU) Q: WHO DO YOU FEEL WAS REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AMBASSADOR DUBS' DEATH AND HOW DO YOU NOW ASSESS THE SOVIET AND AFGHAN ROLES?

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A: WE ARE STILL CONDUCTING OUR INVESTIGATION INTO SPIKE

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DUBS' TRAGIC DEATH, AND ALTHOUGH WE KNOW A GREAT DEAL OF WHAT HAPPENED, THERE ARE STILL IMPORTANT GAPS TO BE FILLED IN. IN STRONGEST TERMS WE HAVE TOLD BOTH THE AFGHAN AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS THAT WE ARE SHOCKED AND DISMAYED AT THE WAY THE SITUATION WAS HANDLED. OUR ADVICE WAS NOT HEEDDED, AND SPIKE DUBS DIED IN THE PRECIPITATE ATTACK ON THE HOTEL ROOM BY AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES. CHRISTOPHER

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